

**Minutes of the
QUAD CITIES RIVERFRONT COUNCIL (QCRFC)**

Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Heather Bishop
Mr. Larry Burns
Mr. Ralph Henninger**
Mr. Tim Kammler

Mr. Tim Knanishu
Mr. Jeff Reiter *
Ms. Brittany Wells
Ms. Kathy Wine

** Current QCRFC Officers*

*** QCRFC Representative to BSRC*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Denise Bulat
Mr. Dave Herrell
Mr. Frank Klipsch

Mr. Greg Johnson
Mr. Rodd Schick
Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Knanishu at 12:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of the March 28, 2023 QCRFC Meeting Minutes** Mr. Burns made a motion to approve the March 28, 2023 minutes. Mr. Kammler seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved.
3. **2022 Certificate of Appreciation Presentation:** Certificates of Appreciation were presented by Ms. Bulat and Mr. Sutton to the following:
 - **River Action** for facilitating the QC Flood Resiliency Alliance. Ms. Wine accepted.
 - **American Cruise Lines** for promoting river-based tourism in the Quad Cities. Mr. Klipsch accepted.
 - **City of Davenport** for fostering a welcoming environment for river-based tourism. No representative was present to accept.
 - **City of Bettendorf** for its commitment to the bicycle and pedestrian path on the I-74 Bridge. Mr. Reiter accepted.
 - **City of Moline** for its commitment to the bicycle and pedestrian path on the I-74 Bridge. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Schick accepted.
4. **Presentation: RAGBRAI on the Riverfront** – Mr. Dave Herrell, President of Visit Quad Cities, presented on Visit Quad Cities's preparations for RAGBRAI, which will be arriving in Davenport the last weekend of July. Mr. Herrell detailed the route that RAGBRAI would be taking as it approached Davenport, as well as the route once it entered the city proper. This route will necessitate

street closures for the duration of the event. The hub of the event in Davenport will be at Centennial Park with numerous vendors set up and events taking place that weekend. Mr. Herrell also noted that volunteers were still needed to help with the event.

5. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Mercer County* – Mr. Peterson said they are winding down the year as far the riverfront is concerned. There are two Cargill terminals at Keithsburg and New Boston. The barges have partial load restrictions at New Boston, and then they can load full at Keithsburg. Keithsburg has the habitat restoration project in the 2nd phase at Port Louisa. There was a project at Cargill where they dug out for the barges. Low water is a big issue economically. The Bay Island is a lower bluff bottom ground, and the drainage committee has sand collecting from the Iowa River. Where the water used to collect has washed away the area around the old railroad bridge at Keithsburg. If they are going to bring in cargo ship and trading, right now is a good time to review the river to see how it has changed. Their busy season is spring and summer. Cargill has different carriers such as Ingram, Marquette, etc., and they do other commodities, such as salt, iron ore, and anhydrous. The corn in the U.S. generally is GMO, but the IP is the product Cargill deals with. There needs to be a plan before they dig up the river. Sturgeon Bay used to be 20 feet deep, but now it is a mud flat.
- *US Army Corps of Engineers* – Ms. Bishop said water is low, but locks and dams are doing what they were designed to do, so there are not the problems here that they are having further south. They are dewatering lock and dam 12 this winter just downstream of Dubuque. There will be tours of the lock and dam when it is dewatered. There is a lot of stuff going on with NEST, and they are designing the additional lock at 25 and the fish passage at lock 22. There is work on the Illinois River to keep the invasive carp (Copi) out of the Great Lakes. Ms. Bishop said the presentation was interesting, and that it would be good to combine resources to work with the Walton Foundation. The colonel is in D.C. working on Congressional visits and updating them about events and issues in our districts.
- *Riverdale* – Mr. Littrel said Riverdale had the highest voter turn-out this year at 72%. Arconic plans to make Fenno Road an overpass over the railroad for employees and the trucks. They can create the overpass because the power plant is being removed. Scott Community College has a new entrance on highway 67, but there will not be a stop sign there anymore. Since Mayor Heddlesten became mayor, they are fully staffed.
- *Scott County* – Mr. Mathias said they are looking at accessory dwelling units for planning and zoning items, and they might create an upper level accessory dwelling unit or build a detached unit to help deal with growing in place.
- *Representative for Bi-State* – Mr. Henninger mentioned opening a new bicycle trail to integrate with the rest of the country and connectivity to other parts. The bike trail will connect Rock Island County to Rockford and Chicago. He mentioned that they could broaden their vision to include more than the River, possibly to include the bike trail.
- *REDEEM* – Mr. Knanishu said the Great River Trail was just completed. In East Moline, the Mecum Auction is at the Bend Expo Thursday through Sunday. They are building a hotel at the Bend that will connect to the expo center itself. The RAISE grant is a 30 million dollar grant; the federal government giving \$25 million, and the city is contributing \$5 million. The city engineers have issued a number of requests for proposals for different sections of that, and

it will create a roadway from the back of the property along the river to 7th Street. It also makes changes along River Drive (in Moline) and 12th Avenue (East Moline), and it will connect the Bend Hotel to 12th Avenue and to 7th Street. It also includes a lot of streetscaping in the downtown including zero-curbs, planters, and landscaping.

- *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns said the bike path is open, and they are repairing the blacktop.

6. **Presentation on engaging communities to improve water quality by supporting healthy watersheds.** Ms. Dawn Temple, Administrator at the Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), discussed engaging communities to improve water quality by supporting healthy watersheds.

Mr. Reiter had to leave, so at this point Mr. Peterson chaired the meeting.

7. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council will be July 25, 2023.
8. **Other Business.** None
9. **Adjournment.** Mr. Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Burns seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.